

to keep Americans from going bankrupt due to medical bills, the for-profit insurance industry has painted any effort at reform as un-American. I want to talk today about health and wealth.

Unlike then, there is now broad consensus that our system is unsustainable. Premiums are rising at three times the rate of inflation, 4,000 Americans are losing their coverage every day, and more and more are unable to get insurance simply because they have preexisting conditions. Still, those who profit most by the status quo, the for-profit insurers, continue to lie to the American people while they take home between \$70,000 a day and \$300,000 a day.

Let me be clear: no one in Congress is trying to nationalize medical care. On the contrary, providing Americans a basic low-cost public option simply expands access so that consumers can visit the doctors of their choice.

It's time we start caring less about making private insurance companies and their CEOs wealthy and get back to making Americans healthy.

WAKE UP AMERICA: THIS IS THE TIME FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. OLIVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker, there are those in America who claim that we can't fix our broken health care system during an economic crisis. The truth is that we can't afford not to fix it.

Health care premiums have risen every year for more than a decade, at least three times as fast as family incomes have risen. If we doing nothing, those rising health insurance premiums will eat up an ever larger slice of family incomes. Businesses that provide health insurance as a benefit for workers and their families will be ever more competitively disadvantaged. That is a loss of jobs that America cannot afford to lose.

Others in America claim that reform will mean a government takeover of health care decisions. The opposite is true. Every American will be able to choose their insurance plan and their doctor, but dropping a person's coverage because of a preexisting condition will be prohibited from all insurance plans.

Reform will ensure that the doctor and the family make the critical decisions on needed care. Now the insurance company executives make those decisions, and they only care about their profits.

Wake up, America; this is the time for health care reform.

HEALTH INSURANCE REFORM DAILY MYTH BUSTER: IMPACT ON SENIORS

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, we have nothing but myths and scare tactics to our seniors about health care.

What is one of the myths? Under the health care reform, a government panel, a bureau, will tell you when you can die. Nothing can be further from the truth. It will be up to your doctor and your family. It simply provides reimbursement for Medicare for doing this.

Another myth: health care reform will lead to rationed care. No such thing. We have it now. As a matter of fact, nothing will stand between you and your doctor to make the best decision. Reform actually takes insurance company bureaucrats out of this decision and let's you make it.

What about the myth about health care reform is a government takeover? Just another lie. Under the bill, there is no government takeover of health care. Every American will still be able to choose their doctor and their health insurance plan and make decisions that they want.

The fourth out of these five myths: health care will reform and end Medicare. Untrue. As a matter of fact, it will strengthen Medicare and it will lower prescription drug benefits—take that doughnut out of Medicare.

And, finally: We can't afford to fix health care during an economic downturn. We can't afford not to fix it.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE JEAN SCHMIDT, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable JEAN SCHMIDT, Member of Congress:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Washington, DC, August 11, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena for documents issued by the Ohio Elections Commission.

After consultation with counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

JEAN SCHMIDT,
Member of Congress.

ELECTING A MINORITY MEMBER TO A STANDING COMMITTEE

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 723

Resolved, That the following member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee:

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM—Mr. Luetkemeyer.

Mr. PENCE (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agreed to the following resolution:

S. RES. 255

In the Senate of the United States, September 8, 2009.

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy was elected to the Senate in 1962 and served the people of Massachusetts in the United States Senate with devotion and distinction for nearly 47 years, the third longest term of service in Senate history;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy became the youngest Majority Whip in Senate history at the age of 36;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy served as Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1979–1981 and as Chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee for nearly 13 years between 1987–2009;

Whereas the Honorable Edward Moore Kennedy made the needs of working families and the less fortunate among us the work of his life, particularly those of the poor, the disenfranchised, the disabled, the young, the old, the working class, the service member and the immigrant;

Whereas his efforts on behalf of the citizens of Massachusetts and all Americans earned him the esteem and high regard of his colleagues;

Whereas more than 300 laws bear his name and he co-sponsored more than 2,000 others covering civil rights, health care, the minimum wage, education, human rights and many other issues; and

Whereas with his death his State and the Nation have lost an outstanding lawmaker and public servant: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate has received with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the passing of the honorable Edward Moore Kennedy, the great Senator from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate communicate these resolutions to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy thereof to the Kennedy family.

Resolved, That when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the deceased Senator.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 179. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas

and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

WIND ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2009

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3165) to provide for a program of wind energy research, development, and demonstration, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3165

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009".

SEC. 2. WIND ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Energy shall carry out a program of research and development to—

(1) improve the energy efficiency, reliability, and capacity of wind turbines;

(2) optimize the design and adaptability of wind energy systems to the broadest practical range of atmospheric conditions; and

(3) reduce the cost of construction, generation, and maintenance of wind energy systems.

(b) *PROGRAM.*—The program under this section shall focus on research and development of—

(1) new materials and designs to make larger, lighter, less expensive, and more reliable rotor blades;

(2) technologies to improve gearbox performance and reliability;

(3) automation, materials, and assembly of large-scale components to reduce manufacturing costs;

(4) low-cost transportable towers greater than 100 meters in height to capitalize on improved wind conditions at higher elevations;

(5) advanced computational modeling tools to improve—

(A) the reliability of aeroelastic simulations of wind energy systems;

(B) understanding of the interaction between each wind turbine component;

(C) siting of wind energy systems to maximize efficiency and minimize variable generation;

(D) integration of wind energy systems into the existing electric grid to ensure reliability; and

(E) understanding of the wake effect between upwind and downwind turbine operations;

(6) advanced control systems and blade sensors to improve performance and reliability under a wide variety of wind conditions;

(7) advanced generators, including—

(A) medium-speed and low-speed generators;

(B) direct-drive technology; and

(C) the use of advanced magnets in generator rotors;

(8) wind technology for offshore applications;

(9) methods to assess and mitigate the effects of wind energy systems on radar and electromagnetic fields;

(10) wind turbines with a maximum electric power production capacity of 100 kilowatts or less;

(11) technical processes to enable—

(A) scalability of transmission from remotely located renewable resource rich areas; and

(B) optimization of advanced infrastructure design, including high voltage transmission; and

(12) other research areas as determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. WIND ENERGY DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Energy shall conduct a wind energy demonstration program. In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) the program is of sufficient size and geographic diversity to measure wind energy system performance under the full productive range of wind conditions in the United States;

(2) demonstration projects carried out under this program are—

(A) conducted in collaboration with industry and, as appropriate, with academic institutions; and

(B) located in various geographic areas representing various wind class regimes; and

(3) data collected from demonstration projects carried out under this program is useful for carrying out section 2(b).

(b) *COST-SHARING.*—The Secretary shall carry out the program under this section in compliance with section 988(a) through (d) and section 989 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352(a) through (d) and 16353).

SEC. 4. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY.

In carrying out this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall—

(1) coordinate with the Office of Minority Economic Impact and with the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization; and

(2) provide special consideration to applications submitted by institutions, businesses, or entities containing majority representation by individuals identified in section 33 or 34 of the Science and Engineering Equal Opportunities Act (42 U.S.C. 1885a or 1885b).

SEC. 5. COMPETITIVE AWARDS.

Awards under section 2 and section 3 shall be made on a competitive basis with an emphasis on technical merit.

SEC. 6. COORDINATION AND NONDUPLICATION.

To the maximum extent practicable the Secretary of Energy shall coordinate activities under this Act with other programs of the Department of Energy and other Federal research programs.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Energy to carry out this Act \$200,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 3165, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am pleased that today we are considering H.R. 3165, the Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009.

The United States has enough wind energy resources to meet all of our electricity needs several times over, but experience over the last several years has shown that many significant technical issues remain before wind can serve as a major provider of base-load electricity. This bipartisan bill

will establish a far more comprehensive research, development and demonstration program for wind technologies at the Department of Energy than currently exists. It is based on several recent assessments of the challenges that need to be overcome for wind power to reach its full potential in the United States and has been fully endorsed by the American Wind Energy Association.

If enacted, H.R. 3165 would become the first law to set an authorization level for wind research and development since DOE's immediate predecessor, the Energy Research and Development Administration, was established in 1975. As we continue to develop a national energy strategy, this will provide crucial guidance for the Department in the years ahead.

I would like to thank my colleagues on the Science and Technology Committee on both sides of the aisle for working with me to make this bill as strong as possible. In particular, I have great thanks for our chairman of the committee, who has made a stalwart effort in advancing our legislation.

In addition to the two Democratic amendments offered, we approved all five Republican amendments offered by voice vote. Thus, the bill ensures geographic diversity, coordination across the Federal Government, and a merit-reviewed award process, among other important provisions.

I ask my colleagues in the House to support H.R. 3165, and look forward to working with our counterparts in the Senate to get this to the President's desk as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 3165, the Wind Energy Research and Development Act of 2009.

Wind energy has been and continues to be a very important part of the electricity-generating portfolio in this country, and in particular in my State of Texas, which I understand is the largest producer of wind energy in our country. However, the technology can be improved upon to make the wind turbines, systems and farms more efficient and more effective at producing energy.

Renewable energy from wind currently makes up almost 2 percent of the energy generated in this country, but industry experts believe that number can be as high as 20 percent. H.R. 3165 can help this country reach that goal.

The bill addresses the key research areas needed to expand our country's production of wind energy, and I thank Mr. TONKO for his work on this important renewable energy source and for working with both sides of the aisle to move this bill unanimously out of the Science Committee and before the House today.

With that, I reserve the balance of my time.